

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06 COME-00 INT-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-14 SSO-00 CCO-00 EUR-25 AF-10 DRC-01 /186 W

----- 111824

R 290855Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8185

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4158

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, ENRG, KU, XF

SUBJECT: SENATOR MCCLURE VISIT TO KUWAIT

SUMMARY: DURING BUSY THREE DAY VISIT HERE SENATOR MCCLURE MET WITH ACTING AMIR AND WIDE RANGE OF OFFICIALS, OIL COMPANY REPS AND OTPARS. HE WANTED TO DISCUSS ENERGY AND MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL ISSUES. KUWAITIS RECEIVED HIM WARMLY AND WERE GRATIFIED BY HIS SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB VIEWS ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. THEY EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN NORMAL AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS WITH US BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IMPROVEMENT ON ARAB-ISRAEL QUESTIONS WERE REQUIRED FIRST AND SPECIFICALLY SOME TANGIBLE ISRAELI CONCESSION MUST BE MADE BEFORE OIL EM-BARGO/PRODUCTION CUTS CAN BE EASED. SENATOR MCCLURE URGED PATIENCE ON ARAB-ISRAEL QUESTIONS AND ADVISED CAUTION ON USE OF OIL WEAPON LEST IT TRIGGER UNFORTUNATE BACKLASH.

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END SUMMARY

1. DURING BUSY THREE DAY VISIT HERE NOVEMBER 25-27 SENATOR MCCLURE (R-IDAHO) MET WITH ACTING AMIR/CROWN PRINCE, ACTING PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND WIDE VARIETY LOCAL OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS INCLUDING NEW OASPEC SECRETARY GENERAL. TALKS FOCUSED ON ARAB-ISRAELISSUES, US ENERGY CRISIS-ARAB OIL EMBARGO AND US-ARAB ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS.

2.SENATOR MCCLURE TOLD PRESS HIS REASONS FOR VISITING MIDDLE EAST WERE TO LEARN DIRECTLY FROM LOCAL LEADERS THEIR VIEWS AND FEELINGS REGARDING AREA STABILITY AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS; TO EXPLAIN HIS OWN VIEWS REGARDING AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD MIDDLE EAST AND TO GAIN FIRST HAND LOOK AT AREA PROBLEMS SO THAT HIS OWN CREDIBILITY IN SENATE WOULD BE ENHANCED WHEN HE SPOKE ON MIDDLE EAST AND ENERGY MATTERS.

3. SENATOR MCCLURE CONVEYED HIS PERSONAL SYMPATHY WITH ARAB VIEWS AND SAID HE THINKS THERE GROWING UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB POSITION. HE SAID OIL WEAPON WAS EFFECTIVE MEASURE BUT HE FEARED BACKLASH AS CERTAIN REGIONS OF US FACE ECONOMIC DISLOCATION. ARABS SHOULD NOT CARRY OIL EMBARGO TOO FAR, HE ASSERTED. SENATOR STRESSED FRIENDSHIP AND URGED ARABS TO BE PATIENT, EXPLAINING THAT IT IS ONLY RECENTLY THAT PUBLIC AT LARGE HAS FOCUSED ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL RECENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WOULD RESULT IN FORWARD MOVEMENT ON ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUES.

4. KUWAITIS CLEARLY WELCOMED SENATOR MCCLURE'S VISIT AND WERE DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT A US SENATOR COULD BE AS UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR CAUSE AS HE IS. THEY REITERATED THEIR BASIC FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN ARABS IN GENERAL AND KUWAIT IN PARTICULAR FOR US. BUT THEY SAID IT BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR FRIENDLY ARABS TO EXPLAIN OR ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY US ACTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST. THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT OIL EMBARGO WILL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL SOME FAVORABLE CONCESSION IS MADE BY ISRAEL. IN THIS CONNECTION, FAILURE OF ISRAEL EVEN TO RETURN TO OCTOBER 22 CEASE-FIRE LINE HAS INTENSIFIED ALREADY DEEP SKEPTICISM HERE OF ISRAEL'S INTEREST IN WORKING OUT PEACEFUL SOLUTION. EVERYONE WITH WHOM SENATOR SPOKE INDICATED

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THAT ISRAEL'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE WAS NOW RECOGNIZED BY ARABS, ALTHOUGH SOME EXPRESSED OPINION THAT JEWISH STATE WHICH DENIED ARABS ANY RIGHTS COULD NOT CONTINUE EXIST IN REGION IN LONG RUN.

5. COMMENT: SENATOR MCCLURE IS FIRST HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL FROM US TO VISIT KUWAIT SINCE OCTOBER WAR. LOCAL REACTION WAS VERY FAVORABLE AND RECEPTION WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY. KUWAITIS HE MET WERE FRANK AND TO THE POINT. THEY MADE IT

CLEAR THAT FRIENDLY AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS WERE DESIRED BUT
SOME IMPROVEMENT IN ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION HAS TO COME BEFORE
NORMAL RELATIONS CAN BE RESUMED.
STOLTZFUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, CODELS, EMBARGOES, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUWAIT04158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973116/aaaaadux.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR MCCLURE VISIT TO KUWAIT SUMMARY: DURING BUSY THREE DAY VISIT HERE SENATOR MCCLURE MET WITH
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, ENRG, KU, XF, (MCCLURE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005